

REMARKS

Please reconsider this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-5 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 2 are independent. Claims 3-5 depend directly on claim 2.

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 3 and 4 were amended to take independent form and include the limitations of the base claim 2. Claim 5 was amended to change dependence from claim 2 to claim 3. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments. Claim 2 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

New Claims

Claim 6 was added to depend from claim 4 and includes the limitations of the original claim 5. Thus, no new matter has been added by way of this amendment.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claim 1 is in condition for allowance and claims 3 and 4 contain allowable subject matter. By way of this reply, claims 3 and 4 have been rewritten to be in independent form including all limitations of the base claim 2. Accordingly, Applicant believes that claims 3 and 4 are in condition for allowance. Further, by virtue of their dependence from claims 3 and 4, respectively, Applicant believes claims 5 and 6 are in condition for allowance.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,714,722 ("Tsukidate"). Claim 2 is canceled by way of this reply. Thus, this rejection is now moot.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Tsukidate on Official Notice. By way of this reply, claim 5 has been amended to depend from claim 3. As discussed above, Applicant believes this places claim 5 in condition for allowance. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 04995/109001).

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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